

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
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-----092760 191407Z /44

O R 182244Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8833
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

UNCLAS QUITO 4966

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, EC
SUBJECT: MORE ELECTION RETURNS

1. LATEST RETURNS CONFIRM THAT JAIME ROLDOS OF THE CONCEN-
TRATION OF POPULAR FORCES (CFP) HAS WON THE FIRST ROUND OF
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS WITH 31 PERCENT OF THE NATIONAL VOTE.
SIXTO DURAN-BALLEN (23 PERCENT) APPEARS TO HAVE EDGED OUT
RAUL CLEMENTE HUERTA (22 PERCENT) FOR THE RUN-OFF SPOT
AGAINST ROLDOS IN THE SECOND ROUND.

2. THE LATEST VOTE COUNT REPORTED BY THE PRESIDENTIAL PRESS
OFFICE (AS OF 6:30 P.M., JULY 17) IS AS FOLLOWS:

ROLDOS	452,699	31 PERCENT
DURAN-BALLEN	340,447	23 PERCENT
HUERTA	321,327	22 PERCENT
BORJA	162,342	11 PERCENT
CALDERON	130,725	9 PERCENT

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MAUGE 75,277 5 PERCENT
1,482,81 101 PERCENT (DUE TO ROUNDING)
BLANK VOTES (56,380) AND NULL VOTES (73,797) BRING THE
VOTE TOTAL TO 1,612,994 OUT OF 2,086,701 ELIGIBLE VOTERS.
WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE STILL VOTES TO BE TABULATED,
BUT HOW MANY IS ANYBODY'S GUESS.

3. ROLDOS IN VICTORY HAS EVIDENCED CONFIDENCE AND GRACE, OFFERING HIS THANKS TO THE ECUADOREAN PEOPLE AND THE MEDIA AND COMMENTING ON HIS SENSE OF ONENESS WITH THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE. OSWALDO HURTADO, ROLDOS' RUNNING-MATE ON THE CFP TICKET, HAS PROMISED A GOVERNMENT OF TOLERANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF FORTIFYING DEMOCRACY IN ECUADOR. THE OPPOSITION PARTIES, ACCORDING TO HURTADO, WILL HAVE A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE TO PLAY DURING A ROLDOS PRESIDENCY. THE THRUST OF HURTADO'S REMARKS, WHICH PLAYED DOWN THE CFP'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROGRAM, SEEMS DESIGNED TO ATTRACT FURTHER SUPPORT FOR THE SECOND ROUND BY EMPHASIZING THE CFP'S MODERATION, FRESHNESS AND VISION.

4. ASSUMING A RUEFUL TONE, DURAN-BALLEN HAS NOTED THAT THE OTHER CANDIDATES (UNDERSTAND HUERTA IN PARTICULAR) SINGLED HIM OUT FOR UNFAIR CRITICISM DURING THE CAMPAIGN. HE WAS FORECED TO RESPOND AND WILL DO SO AGAIN IF HIS HONOR AND NATIONALITY ARE ONCE MORE CALLED INTO QUESTION. DURAN-BALLEN HAS INSISTED ON HIS INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SECOND ROUND, DENYING RUMORS OF THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS STEPPING DOWN. HE HAS REITERATED HIS POLICY OF ACCEPTING NO CONDITIONS IN EXCHANGE FOR ELECTORAL SUPPORT AND INDICATED THAT HIS THEME FOR THE SECOND ROUND WILL SHIFT FROM HIS ABILITY TO PROVIDE THE COUNTRY WITH NEEDED ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE TO HIS CAPACITY FOR PROGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP.

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5. LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS ARE AS YET INCOMPLETE, ESPECIALLY SO IN THE BALLOTING FOR PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILMEN. THE BALLOTS FOR THESE POSTS INCLUDED LONG, UNWIELDY LISTS OF NAMES WHICH SEEMED TO ENCOURAGE A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF BLANK AND NULL VOTES. IN PICHINCHA, FOR INSTANCE, THE PERCENTAGE OF THESE VOTES FOR PROVINCIAL COUNCILMEN EQUALED THE PERCENTAGE GARNERED BY THE WINNING DEMOCRATIC LEFT LIST. APPARENT WINNERS IN THE MOST SIGNIFICANT RACES ARE:

- (A) ANTONIO HANNA MUSSE (APRE, A CONSTITUENT PARTY OF THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTIONALIST FRONT), GUAYAQUIL MAYOR;
- (B) GUIDO CHIRIBOGA PARRA (CFP), GYAYAS PREFECT;
- (C) ALVARO PEREZ INTRIAGO (LIBERAL), QUITO MAYOR;
- (D) PATRICIO ROMERO BARBERIS (LIBERAL), PINCHINCHA PREFECT;
- (E) PEDRO CORDOVA ALVAREZ (CONSERVATIVE), CUENCA MAYOR;
- (F) JAVIER MUNOZ CHAVEZ (CONSERVATIVE), AZUAY PREFECT.

6. FROM THE ABOVE ELECTION RESULTS IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE PARTIES WERE ABLE TO EXERT LITTLE DISCIPLINE OVER VOTERS AND THAT TICKET SPLITTING WAS THE RULE. FOR EXAMPLE, ROLDOS' OVERWHELMING POPULARITY IN GUAYAQUIL DID NOT TRANSFER TO THE CFP'S MAYORAL CANDIDATE, AND THE DEMO-

CRATIC LEFT CANDIDATES FOR QUITO MAYOR AND PICHINCHA PREFECT
LOST BY WIDE MARGINS DESPTE RODRIGO BORJA'S FIRST PLACE
IN THE PRESIDENTIAL POLL IN PICHINCHA. PERSONALITY AND
IMAGE SEEM TO HAVE BEEN THE DOMINANT FACTOR AFFECTING
VOTER DECISIONS.
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